



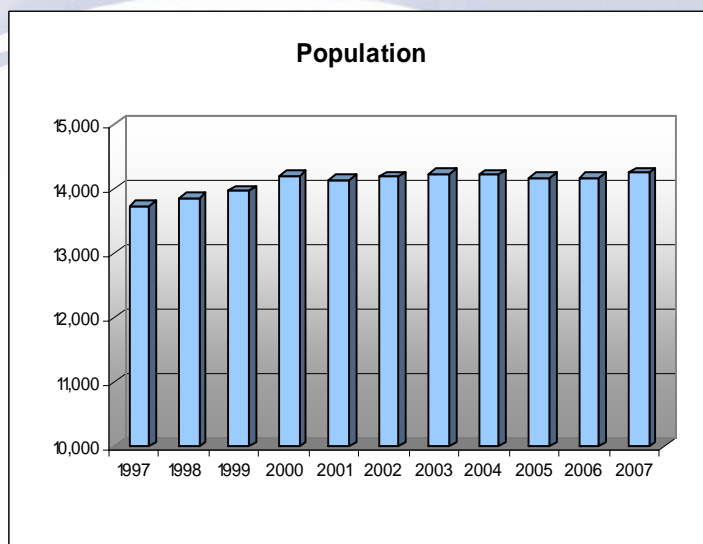
# Gooding County

October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

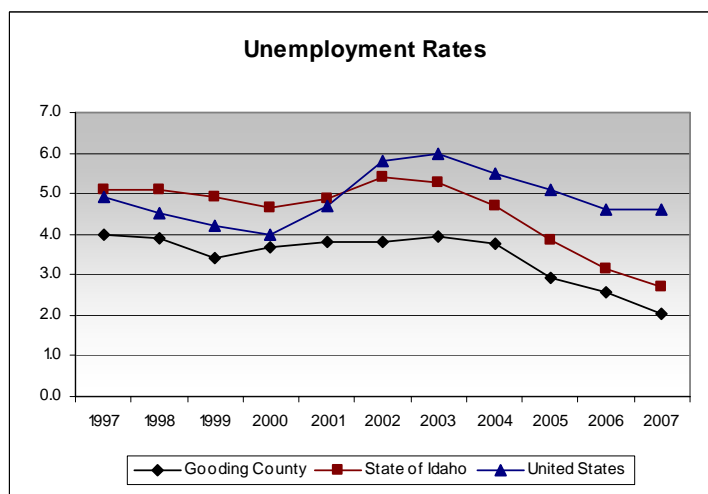
Gooding County has experienced moderate growth over the last 10 years with a population of 13,741 in 1997 that rose to 14,250 in 2007 showing an increase of 3.7 percent. Between 2003 and 2006, Gooding's population dipped ever so slightly, some of which is due to the restructuring of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. On the other hand, Gooding has grown to be a state leader in the dairy industry with a rapid influx of dairies that occurred over a 15 year period. This has resulted in attracting and retaining workers that would normally have been seasonal, contributing to the population increase. It has also led to the creation of manufacturing jobs with cheese processing and trailer manufacturing being key super sectors. The profile of Gooding has diversified and stabilized. But the outlook is for sustainable moderate growth due to the tightening of dairy standards.



### Labor Force & Employment

The improvement in the unemployment rate and civilian labor force has been remarkable in Gooding County over the last 10 years. The peak year for unemployment was 1996 when the rate reached 4.3 percent. The unemployment rate fluctuated moderately until it dropped to 2.0 percent in 2007, significantly below the state and national average.

This low unemployment rate can be traced to the dairy and cheese processing industries, which provide year-round employment with no layoffs. Consequently, employment is stable and seasonal layoffs are a thing of the past. The rapid growth in dairies has slowed somewhat in the last couple of years as environmental concerns have forced the Gooding County commissioners

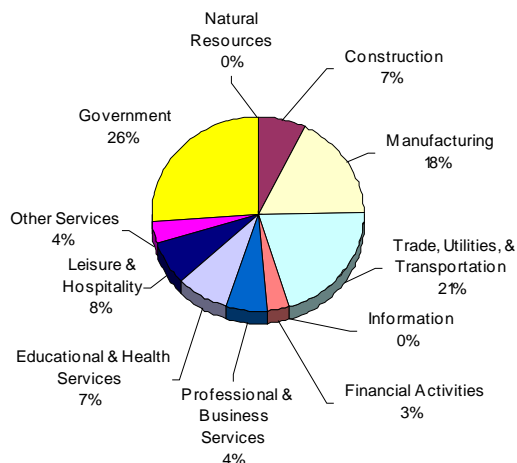


Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	8,457	8,723
Total Employment	8,305	8,430
Unemployed	152	293
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.8	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

to tighten standards applicable to CAFOs, slowing expansion. Kiefer-Built Trailers has provided jobs that require some trade and skill background. This enhances opportunities and competition for the labor pool. Despite the slowdown in job growth, it is expected that Gooding County will continue to have a low unemployment rate and the outlook for its economy is optimistic.

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	6,584	6,686	6,621	7,172	7,113	7,231	7,397	7,657	8,074	8,454	8,367
Unemployment	266	260	224	263	270	276	292	289	235	219	169
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	2.9	2.6	2.0
Employment	6,318	6,426	6,397	6,910	6,843	6,955	7,105	7,367	7,839	8,236	8,198

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Major Employers	
Bettencourt Dairies	Idaho State School for Deaf and Blind
Big Sky Dairies	Jack Verbree Jr Dairy
Clear Springs Foods	Kiefer Built LLC
D & D Transportation	Magic Valley Growers
Double A Dairy	Northwest Bec Corp
Glanbia, Inc.	The Walker Center
Gooding County Memorial Hospital	Valley Works

## Wages & Income

Due to the relatively good pay at dairies and the cheese factories, Gooding County has had strong growth in per capita income, an increase of 51 percent, from \$20,502 in 1997 to \$31,069 in 2006. Gooding County ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of Idaho's 44 counties in per capita income. The work force is stable considering its rural roots, plus a sizeable portion of the work force do not find the distance to Blaine County daunting when comparing the higher wages available there. The escalating cost of fuel may soon compromise that viewpoint. Gooding County has the second highest per capita income in south central Idaho after Blaine County.

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Teachers	\$14.82
Social Workers	\$14.87
Registered Nurses	\$17.13
Substance Abuse Counselors	\$13.71
Waiters and Waitresses	\$5.99
Receptionists	\$8.38
Milkers	\$9.90
General Farm Labor	\$6.34
Cheese Processors	\$9.23
Cashiers	\$6.07
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.20
Construction Labor	\$11.52

\* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	4,621	\$18,075	6,454	\$25,572	6,324	\$27,532
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,176	\$17,661	2,229	\$23,703	2,039	\$26,262
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	3	\$11,400	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	163	\$16,666	305	\$27,286	312	\$28,936
<b>Manufacturing</b>	508	\$21,480	739	\$35,959	764	\$38,280
<b>Trade, Utilities &amp; Transportation</b>	899	\$18,407	896	\$27,363	906	\$28,771
<b>Information</b>	15	\$16,315	*	*	0	\$0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	128	\$16,522	143	\$26,916	123	\$27,554
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	112	\$21,698	294	\$25,104	283	\$29,284
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	220	\$16,808	343	\$22,553	343	\$25,425
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	327	\$7,241	277	\$8,342	302	\$8,440
<b>Other Services</b>	81	\$26,255	135	\$28,480	143	\$30,498
<b>Government</b>	990	\$19,771	1,089	\$25,365	1,107	\$26,107

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Gooding County</b>	\$20,502	\$23,756	\$25,484	\$23,466	\$28,185	\$26,089	\$26,214	\$30,153	\$31,028	\$31,069
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



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